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VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper



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lavalleystar.com

March 2, 2011

Volume 74 Issue 3



EDGAR ROBLES | VALLEY STAR

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME - A construction worker manages a smile in between long hours of drilling and welding on Valley's future Library and Academic Resource Center.

A COURSE IN CONSTRUCTION

Construction continues as part of Valley's 10-year revitalization project.

NICOLE HUTCHINSON
STAFF WRITER

With the opening of Maintenance and Operations and the Sheriff's Station in 2006, the first new additions to the Valley College campus in 30 years, Valley marked the start of a 10-year campus revitalization project, set to include the construction of 15 new facilities and 26 renovation projects.

The construction is funded by \$5.7 billion in bond money that was approved by area voters over three different elections between 2001-2008. The money is distributed throughout the district and is allocated strictly for use in construction to improve the campuses.

"It was a long deliberating process to implement and agree on construction, and to agree on the facilities master plan which will lead to future construction," said Valley President Sue Carleo during a recent informational meeting.

Currently, the Child Development and Family Complex, and the Library and Academic Resource Center are still under construction, but are both expected to be completed by 2012. The new library will be one of the largest in the San Fernando Valley. At 93,000-square-feet, it will contain more than 130,000 books and 350 magazine and newspapers. The building will also play host to Media Services, a professional media resource center, and the Historical Museum.

Upcoming construction for 2011 includes the Athletic Training Facility and Media Arts/Performing Arts Center, as well as Lot D, which will be closed from March 8 to Aug. 15. Lot A will also undergo construction this semester from April to August.

The project most students are looking forward to is the creation of an approximately four-story parking structure. The structure will be built in place of the current softball and tennis courts. Construction is set to begin in 2012.

"This campus really needs a good parking structure, so I'm glad to know that there are plans to make

one," said Valley student Danielle Charleston.

Despite the planned improvements, students have concerns about construction taking place during school hours.

"Not only is parking becoming a problem, but it's really noisy during class, which can be distracting," said student Daniel Gaytan.

This issue has come to the attention of master architect Joseph Sion, who hopes to soon implement sound-proof walls to help reduce the construction noise.

In recent months, concerns have grown beyond just the noise factor for students. On Sunday, the Los Angeles Times published the first of a six-part investigative report surrounding what it claims is "poor planning, frivolous spending and shoddy work" that is marring the district's bond-financed construction program.

The report references several projects throughout the district, including Valley's Allied Health & Sciences Center, which was completed in 2008 at a reported cost of \$48 million. According to the Times, the building "was marred by

defective plumbing, cracked floors, leaky windows and loosely attached ceiling panels that threatened to crash down in an earthquake." The building reportedly cost the district an additional \$3.5 million to hire new contractors to correct the problems.

Carleo describes the report as misleading, acknowledging that construction issues did exist, but were easily resolved "through simple hard work."

"We now have a fully functioning

high-tech learning environment for our students," Carleo said. "All that remains is to resolve the legal dispute with the contractor."

Despite the criticisms and issues regarding construction plans, Carleo remains enthusiastic.

"Maintaining our college at the highest levels ... enables us to revitalize the campus in order to deliver the best possible learning environment for our students," said Carleo.

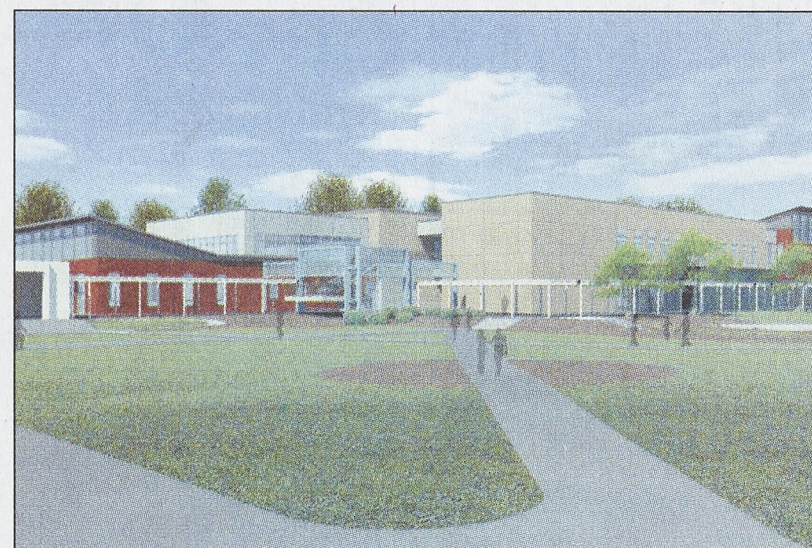


IMAGE COURTESY OF YANG CONSTRUCTION

VISION - Artist's rendering of the Library and Academic Resource Center.

PELL GRANT FUNDING ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK

College students may find less funding when they need it most.

AVERY CROSS
STAFF WRITER

Students attending college in California may soon face drastic reductions in available federal financial aid.

House Republicans recently passed legislation to cut federal Pell Grant spending in half, reducing the maximum award by \$845 and capping the program's funding at \$17.5 billion. The cuts could affect nearly 6,000 Valley College students who qualified for Pell grants this year.

"I think that's awful," said Valley psychology major and Pell grant recipient Jan Folden. "They should be adding money."

Unlike college loans, Pell grants are need-based grants that do not need to be repaid.

Eight million students received Pell Grants last year and 23,000 of them were California community college students. But according to budget analysts these record numbers are pushing the program into an unsustainable \$20 billion deficit.

Valley student Manny Hovanessian said no matter what the cost, he would make sacrifices to continue his education. Even if it meant taking time off to work full time, save up, and return to school. But he expressed concern for students who might not have that option.

"Because of the government not funding schooling, some students may have to give up on their plans and dreams," Hovanessian said.

The GOP plan reduces all grants by 15 percent, starting with the remaining half of 2011.

The White House is fighting for less drastic cuts. Instead of reducing all awards, the Obama Administration would eliminate a costly provision from 2008 that allowed students who attended

[See PELL GRANT, Page 2]



RACHEL FERREIRA | VALLEY STAR

WALK ON - Protesters unite against recent funding cuts.

BILL TO DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD GAINS ATTENTION AT WALK FOR CHOICE

With roughly \$330 million in federal funding to be cut from Planned Parenthood, the stakes are high as Los Angeles residents attend the Walk for Choice.

RACHEL FERREIRA
STAFF WRITER

In response to the recently passed bill to defund Planned Parenthood, Americans across the country and around the world coordinated the Walk for Choice movement to protest the bill as it makes its way from the House of Representatives to the Senate.

On Saturday, Valley College students marched with other Los Angeles residents at the downtown walk, while a smaller Walk for Choice simultaneously took place in Sherman Oaks. What started as a few planned rallies spread through social networking sights like Tumblr and Facebook and quickly turned into a full blown nationwide protest. At the Downtown Walk for Choice, roughly 100 people came together with signs and chants

to march down Spring Street.

Despite the heavy rain predictions, linguistics major Kaitlin Ison stepped out to promote awareness, chanting, "Our bodies, our lives, our rights to decide," along with the other downtown protestors.

"I felt the need to go on the walk because Planned Parenthood is an important part of our society and without it, we would be missing a lot of integral services and sexual education," said Ison.

For political science major Robert Malka, the Walk for Choice was important because Planned Parenthood takes up such a small amount of the total budget, that the underlying pro-choice issue was obvious even though none of the federal funding can be used for abortions. The money to be potentially cut from Planned Parenthood, however, does fund other services like contraception and cancer screenings.

"Even if I was against abortions, I wouldn't be able to justify the bill based on only cutting spending. It's a moral issue, plain and simple. Beliefs are fine, but people can't always afford these services and we can't deny individuals something that in this recession might be so desperately needed," said Malka.

[See WALK, Page 2]

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INFORMATION:

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ONLINE SLIDESHOW:



Recent storms dropped snow as low as 500 feet on the foothills.

Also available online @ www.lavalleystar.com

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PELL GRANT

Continued from page 1

school year round to receive two Pell Grants in one year.

The administration would keep the maximum Pell Grant at its current level of \$5,550 per student per year, but end federal subsidies for repaying interest on graduate student loans.

"Education is an investment we need to win the future," said President Obama in defense of a

plan that increases the Department of Education's overall budget by 4.3 percent in 2012.

The federal Pell Grant and the Board of Governors Fee Waivers are the most significant financial aid programs available to community college students in California, according to a study by MPR Associates. The study also found that Pell Grant recipients transfer and reach their goals more quickly.

While both parties argue how to cut spending and still keep these

programs going, the reality is clear - there will be changes.

According to Valley's Financial Aid office, there's no way to tell exactly how many Valley students will be affected until Congress makes a final decision. Students have until midnight tonight to meet the California state deadline for completing the free FAFSA application for the current academic year. Students should visit www.fafsa.ed.gov for complete filing instructions.

SETTING A PATH FOR SUCCESS

Whether looking to transfer or finding the right career, Valley's Career and Transfer Center can help.

MINDEE JORGENSEN
STAFF WRITER

The Career and Transfer Center at Valley College offers a wealth of information, resources, and events, all to help students prepare for wherever the future will take them.

"One of the big things we do is help students through the transfer process, which includes applications, scholarships, and financial aid, because we want it to be as seamless as possible," said Synthia Saltoun, the center's director of professional counseling.

Students have access to an extensive catalog of colleges and universities, where they can find transfer requirements, available majors, and financial information about a prospective school. Representatives from area schools often visit the center, and students can set up a meeting to talk about any questions they may have. The center even offers free bus trips to area colleges and universities, giving students an opportunity to see a potential school firsthand.

There is always something going on at the center. Weekly workshops help students navigate the transfer process and can help undecided students find a career path that is right for them. The



JENNIFER MORGAN | VALLEY STAR

PAPERWORK - Broadcasting major Alex Sherman files for grade forgiveness in the Career and Transfer Center, adjacent to the Student Services Building.

center is also hosting a Career Speaker Workshop Series, featuring a speaker from a different field each week. The series begins March 15 with a look at careers in education. A Career Week event is scheduled for April 11-14, which includes a special college and major fair on April 12.

With Groundhog Job Shadow Day on April 29, students can spend the day shadowing a professional working in the field that interests them. Students interested in participating will first need to attend one of four upcoming hour-long orientation sessions. Information regarding orientation sessions is available in the center or by calling Clive Gordon at (818) 778-5576.

"At the orientation we get an idea of what career the student is interested in, and set them up with the right person [to shadow]," said

Deanna Gold, an intern helping students in the center.

Saltoun stresses the importance of visiting the center often to be aware of any necessary deadlines and new opportunities that become available. New students should check into the center early and visit with a counselor to begin mapping out the right classes, and make use of all the resources the center has to offer.

"Sometimes you know [what you want to do], but do not have all the knowledge you need," said Saltoun.

The Career and Transfer Center, located in the Student Services Annex, is open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Additional information is available online at www.lavc.edu/transfer.

WALK

Continued from page 1

Only time will tell how the bill will play out once it reaches the Senate. Anthony O'Regan, a political science professor at Valley, who did not attend the walk, but is following the issue, anticipates the bill will end in a standoff, with a deal inevitably being struck.

"The difference all of a sudden, why everyone is talking about the bill, is now the republicans have control of the House of Representatives," O'Regan said. "They've been [trying] for a long time to undermine Planned Parenthood funding ... I anticipate it's going to go down party lines, but the bottom line is the democrats control the Senate. Now we're at this standoff."

NEWS IN BRIEF

BARRY JAKOB
STAFF WRITER

LOCAL NEWS:

SACRAMENTO— Gov. Jerry Brown, testifying before state officials, announced that if voters and the Legislature don't approve his budget plan, he will cut \$25 billion in state government spending to compensate for the deficit. "I want to make one thing clear, ..." Brown said. "If we don't get the tax extensions, I am not going to sign a budget [unless it is] an all-cuts budget." (LA Times)

PASADENA— Retired Pasadena high school teacher David Lyman, 66, was arrested on Thursday for allegedly supplying alcohol to former students at his home. Lyman, who taught at Blair High School, is accused of furnishing alcohol to minors between June and December 2010. (LA Times)

NATIONAL NEWS:

WASHINGTON, D.C.— President Obama recently appointed Jeremy Bernard to be the social secretary in the White House. Bernard, a former democratic fund raiser in Los Angeles, became the first openly gay member appointed by an American president. "Jeremy shares our vision for the White House as the 'people's house,' one that celebrates our history and culture in dynamic and inclusive ways," Obama said in a statement. (LA Times)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

BAGHDAD, IRAQ— At least nine people have died in anti-government protests in Iraq, as thousands continue to flood to the streets in cities across the country. "We want them to enforce justice. We want them to fix the roads. We want them to fix the electricity. We want them to fix the water," said an anonymous protester. (BBC News)

TRIPOLI, LIBYA— In continuing unrest in the North African nation, Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi urged his supporters to protect the country's oil reserves, and vowed to "triumph over the enemy." Defiant Libyans hit the streets of Tripoli to protest against his 51-year leadership. "Get ready to defend Libya ... get ready to defend the oil," Gadhafi said. "I am in the middle of the people, and I will fight, and we will prevail over them." (NY Times)

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Saturday

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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1:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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STEPHANIE COLMAN
NEWS EDITOR

Key Issues at Tuesday's Meeting Included:

Making Valley College a smoke-free campus -- The Executive Committee voted 4-2 in favor of a proposal to ban smoking throughout campus. Supporters of the proposal cited health concerns, while those against it spoke its difficulty to enforce, and the likelihood that smokers would continue to smoke, even if only in discreet locations.

"There will always be people who smoke, whether or not a ban is in place," said Larisa Michell, Valley's commissioner of evening division. "By supporting the ban, I believe we're taking a stand for

better health."

The ASU-backed proposal now moves to Valley's Space & Work Committee for further review.

Funding for March in March advocacy efforts -- ASU President Hanna Matevosyan presented the council's proposed budget of \$17,000 to fund Valley's participation in the March 14 Sacramento event. Following debate, the budget was approved 5-2 with one by-proxy vote in favor of the budget.

The funds will provide airfare, on-site transportation and meals for 35 students and three chaperones. The funds are drawn from the \$1 student representative fee paid by each student.

Much of the debate centered on the high travel costs and the concern that better planning might have led to greater savings.

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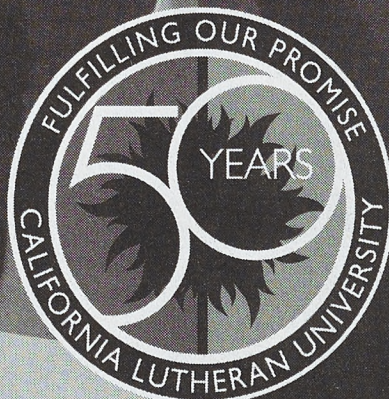
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LAVC Events

March 3, 4, and 5

The LAVC Theater Arts Department presents "Love and Other Remains" by Brad Fraser.

Directed by LAVC alum Hallie Baran and featuring LAVC students Carlo Maghirang, Katie Ann Holland, Janette Jara, Kevin Wilkins, Schneur Wolf, Josh Holt, and Kelsey Rogers.

Controversial for its violence, nudity, frank dialogue, and sexual explicitness, "Love and Human Remains" was acclaimed by critics and audiences and was named one of the 10 best plays of the year by Time Magazine.

8 p.m. in the Horseshoe Theatre

! THINK TRANSFER

FAFSA filing period ends March 2, 2011 for 2011-2012.
Apply online: www.fafsa.ed.gov

Fall 2011 UC Application updates due online:
www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/appupdate

MARCH

Thursday, 3
Job Shadow Orientation 1-2 p.m. or 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Undecided Major/ Career Workshop 5-6 p.m.

Friday, 4
Buddy Day at UCLA 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Monday, 7
CSUN Rep. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Undecided Major/ Career Workshop 1-2 p.m.

How to Transfer Workshop 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 8
How to Transfer Workshop 1-2 p.m.

All activities in Career/ Transfer Center, Student Services Annex. For further information cal (818) 947-2646 or visit our we site at www.lavc.edu/transfer.

FREE CONCERTS ARE BACK

The Avon Street Quintet gets the series off to a swinging start.

MINDEE JORGENSEN
STAFF WRITER

Every Wednesday at 1 p.m. there will be a free concert in the Valley College music hall. The Avon Street Quintet returned from last year to kick off the semester. This upbeat jazz group is lead by trombonist Curt Berg, who also composes the music. He wrote all but one of the pieces performed at the concert. The group members all have strong musical backgrounds, and play for many other projects and recordings.

The group started the show with a fast-paced jazz number entitled "What Will It Be Today." The song was a perfect opener. The skill level of the musicians shown

through immediately, and the tempo and syncopated style of this song grabbed attention. Drummer Bill Berg showed great dynamic skills, keeping it soft under the solos and throwing in accents to add excitement. Bassist Lyman Medeiros kept this first number moving and grooving with his skills on the upright. His love of playing shined through his smile and the way he played. It made the fast moving bass lines he was playing look like something he could do in his sleep.

The second song, "The Beekeeper," was a softer, mellow piece which showed off saxophonist Tom Luer's proficiency. Later in the song the tempo jumped to a Latin feel, lead by pianist Gary Fukushima. Fukushima was a substitute performer, and only practiced these songs once with the group before performing. However, it sounded as if he was a permanent member. He played at a professional level and had many outstanding

solos throughout the performance.

The next song was "Lost Peloton," which had a sporadic introduction, including a nice use of shakers and rim clicks on the drums that complimented a syncopated piano solo, before breaking into a mid-tempo beat.

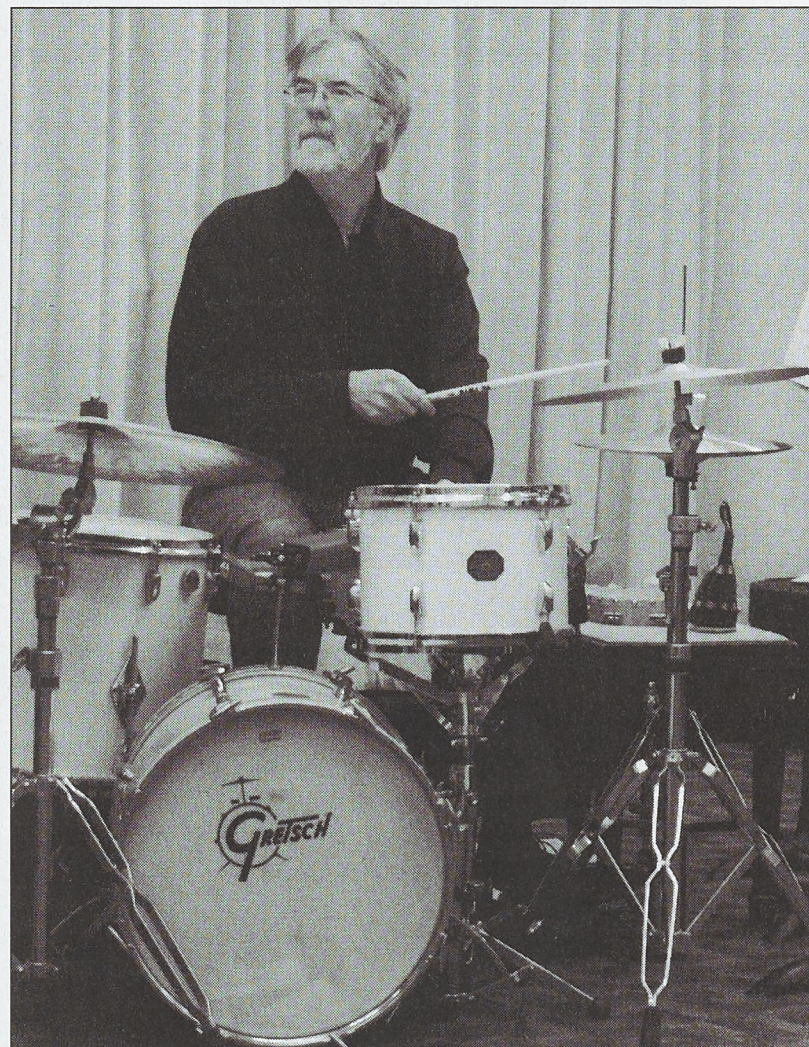
The fourth song, "A Time for Love," was a cover written by Johnny Mandel. This song showcased Medeiros on bass. He made his bass sing melodically at the beginning, before jumping into a rhythmically driving walking bass style.

Next was "Between the Lines," followed by their closer "Pony Up," which is a song they played at Valley last year. This was an upbeat song with busy drums and lots of fills and accents.

Next Wednesday's concert will feature "String Dialogues." For more information on this show, or any upcoming Valley music events, visit www.lavc.edu/music.



BANDING TOGETHER - Tom Luer, Curt Berg, and Liman Medeiros perform "What Will It Be Today" for Valley Students.



KEEPING THE BEAT - Bill Burg lays down the rhythm to "Between the Lines."

TWO CENTS FROM SPENCE YOU CAN'T CURE HUBRIS

Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss try for one last shot of glory. Even if it's completely idiotic.

J.P. SPENCE



The funny thing about revisionist history is that it becomes the only way history is remembered. Then again, maybe David Fincher was being fairly accurate in "The Social Network."

Now that practically everyone has seen the Academy-Award-winning film, Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss feel that the story isn't done yet. The Winklevi are contesting their \$160-million-dollar settlement with Facebook and are searching for a new valuation.

Cameron Winklevoss has stated, "If it was about the money, we'd walk away right now." Noooooo, if it is about the money - which it is - you fight and get every single cent possible, which is what they are doing. What makes this situation worse is the complete and utterly false pretense that the Winklevi are standing on.

The brothers cite the reason for their appeal as them being duped in a federal appeal concerning the true valuation of the privately held company, and are fighting solely out of moral principle. The fact that they received any settlement from Facebook is amazing considering it's a tacit omission of guilt from the company. If it's an issue about ethics they've already won. What the Winklevoss' are looking for is a fatal blow in the street fight between them and Mark Zuckerberg. The problem, though, is that they've already lost that fight.

Cameron Winklevoss has also stated, "Mark Zuckerberg wouldn't be sitting where he is if it weren't for us. They think it's over. We believe there is another chapter to be written."

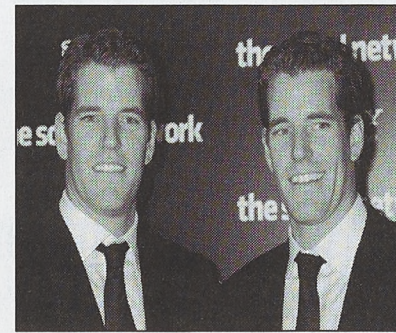
Unless they can get David Fincher to do some post production edits, rename the film "The UnSocial Network" (otherwise known as ConnectU) and have it become the new, new movie to define the previous decade, the Winklevi are S.O.L.

What all this is really about is ego-tripping and money-grubbing. If the Winklevoss' lose their appeal, it will be the second consecutive rejected appeal for the twins seeing as they felt they didn't have the obligation to pay their litigators. Apparently \$160 million is a pittance and not worth their time or worth paying their litigation team who fought with Facebook for years.

The greatest thing about this whole embarrassment of riches is that these two twins are completely oblivious to their surroundings. They're Harvard and Oxford educated, Olympic medal winning athletes who've never had to work a day in their life, yet they can't be a chapter in the Facebook story, the Winklevoss have to be the whole damn book. They say they are fighting a just fight, but this only defines Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss to be the elitist, yuppy scum that "The Social Network" has portrayed them to be.

They say they are looking for a "fair shake," maybe they need a diaper change, a nap, and a baba.

Apparently if they were the guys who invented Facebook, then they would've invented Facebook.



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BRING IN THE RELIEF - Monarch freshman pitcher Sergio Roman relieved starting pitcher Chase Munoz at Tuesday's home loss against Oxnard. The Monarchs lost 10-6, extending the team's record to 10-8 for the season.

MONARCHS GO DOWN SWINGING

The Monarchs lost 10-6 against the Oxnard Condors Tuesday afternoon.

JOSHUA LAWRENCE
STAFF WRITER

Despite earning four runs in the bottom of the ninth inning in Tuesday's game against the Oxnard Condors, the Valley College Monarchs couldn't overcome an eight-run deficit before the final out was recorded.

"The best player on our team today? Our announcer Gary," said Head Coach Dave Mallas in reference to his frustration throughout the game.

Unfortunately for the Monarchs, every player wasn't as good as the announcer Tuesday, as the Condors came out ready

for Valley starting pitcher, Chase Munoz. The Condors earned five runs with a two-out rally that started with a triple from Oxnard outfielder, Justin Davis. Munoz couldn't close the inning out before the Condors were able to score three more in the inning by way of a double from second baseman, Jacob Mahan. The Condors' final run of the inning came on a base hit from catcher, Mario Landeros. After the five-run rout, Mallas pulled Munoz and sent in relief pitcher Freddy Contreras, who recorded the third out.

"It's our offense that's been struggling, and that's been the biggest key ... not being able to score any runs," said Mallas.

The Condors added one more run in the top of the fifth inning, giving the team a 10-0 lead. However, the Monarchs were able to get on the board with two runs in

the bottom of the fifth inning.

"We're struggling," said Mallas. "Our pitching has been pretty consistent for the first part of the season, outside of today."

The Monarchs scored four runs, two of them were walked in by Oxnard pitcher Brandon Hernandez, in the bottom of the ninth as the team tried to even the score. Though Valley had gained some momentum the margin was too great to overcome. The Condors defeated the Monarchs 10-6.

"We have a good group of guys. We're ahead of the game as far as last year goes, we were 0-12 going into conference play and we turned around to win conference. We still have the capability to do that we just need to execute offensively," said Mallas.

SEE GALLERY PAGE 6 FOR MORE PHOTOS FROM TUESDAY'S GAME

A FORWARD STROKE FOR THE MEN'S SWIM TEAM

The men's swim team placed in several events in the Mt. SAC Invitational last weekend.

RUBI MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

Walnut— Valley College's swimming and diving teams competed over the weekend for a two-day event held at Mount San Antonio College in the Mt. SAC Invitational.

Swimming against 20 other community colleges, the Monarch men's swim team placed eighth. "The first major invite of the year is a starting point for the swimmers," men's Head Coach James McMillan said.

Standing out for the Monarchs was Khachik Playchyan who placed first in both the 100-yard and 200-yard backstroke with times of 53.02 seconds in the 100 and 1:55.08 for the 200.

Southern Conference champion Gary Arthur, took first place on the 100-yard butterfly competition with a time of 53.04, and second place for the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 1:58.32 for the Monarchs.

"We've been training pretty hard [and] we are pretty strong," said Arthur.

Also of note for Valley was Arthur who came in third place in the 500-yard freestyle with an overall time of 4:51.33, and Ian Rotundo who placed sixth in the event.

"It is outstanding at this

time of the year for [Rotundo] to do this," McMillan said about Rotundo's improvement from last season.

According to Rotundo, in last year's competition he finished at 5:09 in comparison to this match, in which he finished with a time of 5:03.94.

"It's been an improvement over-all," Rotundo said.

The men's team finished in second place for both the 200 and 400 medley relay competition with overall times of 1:42.34

for the 200 and 3:44.09 for the 400.

"[I'm] pleased with some of the swims we had, in very cold conditions," McMillan said. "We will continue to train hard with the goal of becoming faster and stronger in the water. I liked the way all of the men competed in their events, and when they were in a dog fight ... they battled."

The Monarchs' next event is the Western State Conference Quad 1 on Friday March 4. The event takes place at Valley.



COMPETE - State champion Chris Pivachyan placed Valley on the board with an impressive 200 backstroke time in the Western State Conference relays

GREATNESS IN THE SHADOWS

Assistant coaches help elevate the Monarchs to softball superiority.

CRISTINA SERRATO
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Though few outside of the softball team are familiar with assistant coaches Dave Govea, Lorena Arrequin and Erzy Perez, the Monarchs know that they are an important part of the dynamic that helps keep the softball team successful.

"We head coaches get our name thrown around a lot and though we set a plan, ultimately [the assistants] are how our plans get implemented," said Head Coach Frankie Garcia.

At 50, new assistant batting coach Dave Govea has 45 years of baseball experience. Govea was a first baseman in high school, and also for Cal State Northridge where he graduated with a degree in kinesiology. Govea then coached at San Fernando High School and at Mission College during "the years they won." Govea also coaches a travel ball team on top of bringing his winning spirit to Valley.

"He has changed the program in a short amount of time; we're lucky to have him," said Arrequin.

Arrequin, a San Fernando Valley native, started playing softball at the age of eight; she continued her softball career by playing for San Fernando High School and later Valley. Now, after attending Abilene Christian University in Texas she has returned to give back to her former softball team.

"I like watching [the athletes] improve as players, students and

people," said Arrequin. "They definitely grow while they're here, and it's great to watch the transformation."

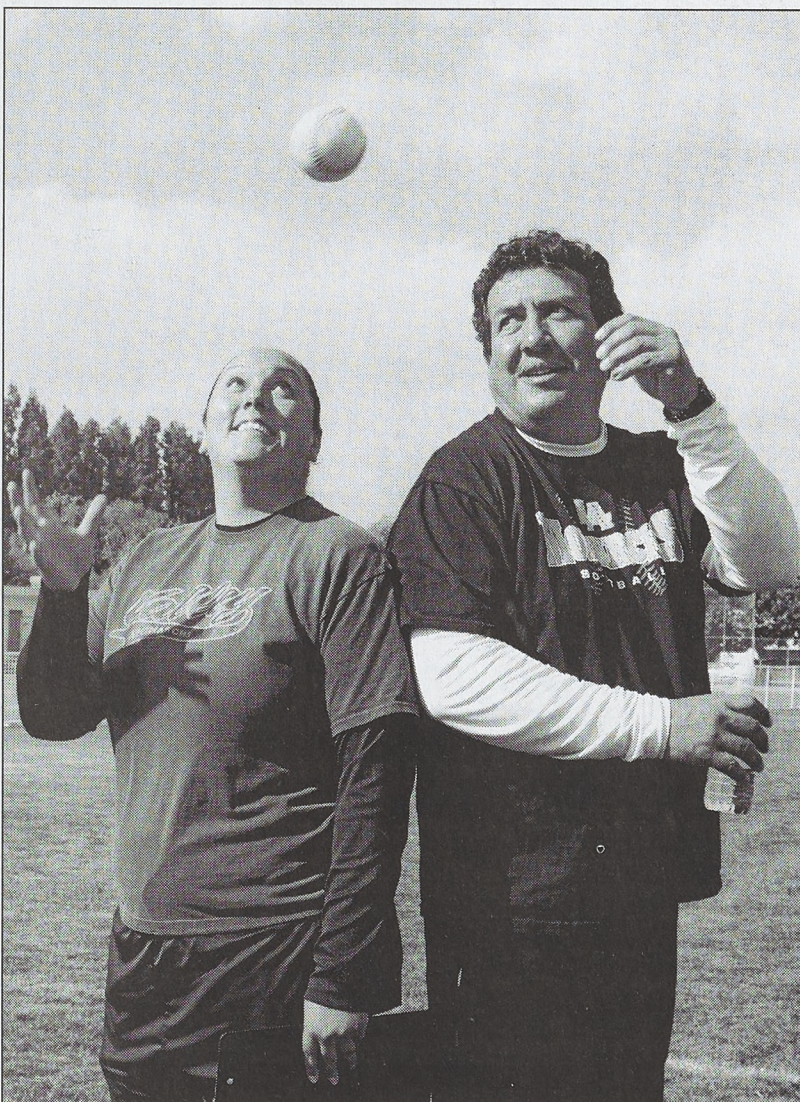
Perez accredits her love of softball to Coach Garcia. Her first experience with softball was in 2009 when she played for the Monarchs, after being recruited by Coach Garcia while she was working out in the gym. Ezry is a full-time student at Cal State University, Los Angeles, and though she has no car and does not get paid, she is at Valley every day to help the players with their homework, study hall and

mental conditioning.

"I like that I matured [and] became a better person here," said Perez. "I want to transfer what I got [from Valley] to the players."

Govea, Arrequin and Perez are fairly new to the Monarch softball coaching staff; however their combined experience, compassion and dedication are what make them a key asset for Valley.

"The staff are a phenomenal group this year," said Garcia. "I would love to have them return."



HAVIN' FUN - Valley College softball assistant coaches Lorena Arrequin and Dave Govea during Wednesday's practice.

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MONARCH BASEBALL FALLS SHORT AGAINST OXNARD

PHOTOS BY EDGAR ROBLES
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

STORY BY COURTNEY BASSLER
STAFF WRITER

The Monarch two runs and main-baseball taining solid defense team played in the remainder of the Oxnard the game. Though College Condors on Valley made a final Tuesday afternoon. stand in the bottom of the ninth, batting in four runs in the second four runs, the Condors inning and five runs walked away with the in the third inning, victory, defeating the putting the Monarchs Monarchs 10-6. The down 9-0. The Condors Monarchs face the put up another run in Condors again today the top of the fifth, at Oxnard. The team's but the Monarchs rallied in the bottom of the inning by posting Ventura College.



COME OUT SWINGING - Outfielder Antonio Rosales swings big as he contributes with a basehit for the Valley baseball team.



BUMMER - A frustrated Monarch hangs his head as the score extends to 10 runs to none in favor of the Oxnard Condors.



YOU'RE OUTTA THERE - Third baseman Michael Acosta tags the runner out for a hard slide for the Monarchs.



BRINGING THE HEAT - Monarch pitcher Freddy Contreras fires a fastball for a strike against the Oxnard Condors.



SAFE BY A MILE - A diving Condor extended the lead in Tuesday's game against the Monarchs.